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courage is contagious

Viewing cable 06AMMAN6519, SOME REFORM ACTIVISTS BOYCOTT EMBASSY OVER LEBANON

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06AMMAN6519**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06AMMAN6519	2006-08-24 13:18	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Amman

Appears in these articles:

[not](#)
[yet](#)
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VZCZCXYZ0000
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHAM #6519 2361318
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 241318Z AUG 06
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3482
INFO RUEHXX/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 006519

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/24/2021
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [IS](#) [LE](#) [JO](#)
SUBJECT: SOME REFORM ACTIVISTS BOYCOTT EMBASSY OVER LEBANON

REF: AMMAN 5745

Classified By: Ambassador David Hale for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) Summary: Citing U.S. policy toward Lebanon and the Palestinians, several long standing Embassy contacts among the reform activist community have begun in recent weeks to boycott Embassy functions or have ended information-sharing relationships. Those who continue to work with us report feeling pressure in a Jordanian society that is beginning to conflate reform causes with regional conflicts. End summary.

¶2. (C) A number of Embassy contacts have recently ended or scaled back long-standing work relationships with us because of regional developments.

--Dr. Abdulrahim Melhas, a reformist Member of Parliament and an Embassy contact for two decades, declined to attend an event at the Ambassador's residence honoring political reform activists. He later told poloff that he stayed away because he viewed the U.S. "as an enemy lately."

--Leaders of Adaleh Human Rights Center, a human rights NGO that has long contributed information useful to our annual human rights and religious freedom reports, boycotted an Embassy reception in late July. In late August, they refused to discuss human rights issues with emboff, and told her they were "enraged" by U.S. policies toward Lebanon and the Palestinians. The NGO's president said that because of the war, U.S. commitments to democracy in the region had no credibility.

--A director of Amman Center for Human Rights, another human rights NGO that has long worked with Embassy, told PolFSN that he would not meet with us following recent events in Lebanon out of concern he would be "seen as a spy."

--Ten recent returnees from a Spring 2006 International Visitors Program for democratization activists invited the Ambassador to lunch, but four of the hosts then boycotted their own event citing developments in Lebanon. The attendees were eager to continue cooperation with the Embassy, but also observed that as self-styled "liberals" promoting democratic reform, they are vulnerable to accusations of promoting an American agenda - electoral death in the current climate.

--One econ contact declined to meet with emboffs citing the Qana tragedy, but we were able to get our business done with his superior, who received us as usual (reftel).

¶3. (SBU) Most other civil society NGOs continue to do business with us, but many report they feel pressure from other Jordanians because their causes are increasingly seen as "pro-Western."

¶4. (C) Comment: As late as the end of July, we saw little sign that our contacts were letting their perceptions of U.S. policy interfere with their day-to-day business with us. These anecdotes suggest emotions here peaked toward the end of the conflict. If the region moves toward calm and visible diplomatic progress, we expect things to gradually return to normal. End Comment.

Visit Amman's Classified Web Site at
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/amman/>

Hale